As I talked about in the last reflection, this year is all about the little marks on the sidewalk. These marks are representing not only every part of my senior year but more specifically my AP literature journey.

As you probably know by now, senioritis is a very real thing. This disease is consuming me and it a very, very hard thing to stop. It started hardcore about a month and a half ago and the work effort I pride myself on, is slowly diminishing. However, I am trying my hardest to let this all consuming disease affect my time in this class.

I have been fairly successful at this too. My effort is still pretty high despite my brain fighting against it. Times when I know that my effort is still there is when we did the “This I belive” presentations. I put a ton of extra work into that project. I think the reason of that is because it was on a topic that I truly enjoyed and cared about. Although at times this was really challenging, I always found a way to work through it because my passion carried me though. Times where the effort was not all the way there is when we had to read our book for the six weeks. I am not saying I didn’t read them, because I did. The time and the manner of when they were finished was not up to my usual standard. This then made the Pecha Kucha twice as hard because my book was not finished until two days before presentation day.

Despite having senioritis, I have grown over the past trimester. This is a college ready class and to have so many projects going on at once and having to manage everything is difficult but it is getting easier. This has not only helped me in this class but outside the class as well when I try to schedule out my week. This will also help me in the future because a ton of the work I did on projects was not actually in class but at home, this will be college.

That isn’t the only thing that has gotten easier, when I read now, I can understand what the writing was trying to say without the actual words. How I can analytically understand a piece of writing has changed tremendously. I would love to do more poems of the weeks, because I think that is what made this a growth. Now I may be bias but because my group was amazing during the shakespearean project, but group projects bring a whole new understanding to everything. I personally believe it is in some of these moments when you learn the most because, not only do you have to rely on other people to get the part of the work done but you get to compare ideas and see different interpretations other than your own. I have grown in the aspect of trusting others do their end of the bargain and letting others ideas be thrown out but at the same time not being afraid to step on someone's toes if I believe strongly in something.

Risk are something that I have been trying a lot harder to take more of. This is both in my social life and in my classwork (don’t worry nothing dangerous). The thing to understand about risk is that it can be really good or really bad because not everyone will agree with what you had to say. One of the biggest risk I took was with in our group projects involving either King Lear or Macbeth. First of all we chose a critical theory that little to no one has ever picked, we did not a reference to lead us one way or the other. During this project we found out that we only doing it half correctly and if we wanted to it right that we change it, this was a big risk because it completely changed the direction that we were coming from. To add, we had a very different concept that most people that in reality is very hard to explain so when we presented we had not only make it understandable without compromising the idea but relate it to hard with we also took a weird spin on. Now I have also taken other risk such as with my time management or just expressing my opinion because it may be different. All I know is that I want to take more risk in the future.

Over the past 14 weeks we have not done as much writing as we did the first trimester. However I do think my writing has improved. Something I have always struggled with is transitioning from one topic to the next in my papers without it being blatantly obvious. Through starting back with our tragedies papers this has grown. It is no longer all of over the place and leaving the reader confused. I have also been a lot better at drawing connections to things in my life or things around me and intertwining them into my pieces. I do not know if this is good or bad but I can know write a good paper a lot quicker now, which will probably help me in the future.

As a reader, I actually took some risk and I think it helped me grow. For our reader books, I chose not one but two Jane Austen books which are not the easiest books to read. Her books are very good but they can be super slow and nothing will happen for chapters at a time. I had to be patient and continue reader no matter how tired or bored I was. Last year, I did not understand the ethos, pathos and logos and now I finally feel like I can see it when I am reading, which has also helped my writing.

As a critical thinker, I have taken more risk and have new understanding for complex topics. Now I am in no way planning on being a on being a english major but this will help in projects in my future and help me be more rounded in english.

Overall, I believe in this 2nd tri, I did a lot better. I definitely took more risk, improved the part of my writing that I struggled with the most and felt more comfortable in front of people presenting. My reading and time management has not improved much and honestly it probably won’t due to the senioritis. We have ten weeks left in this class and I can’t wait to add more marks to the sidewalk.